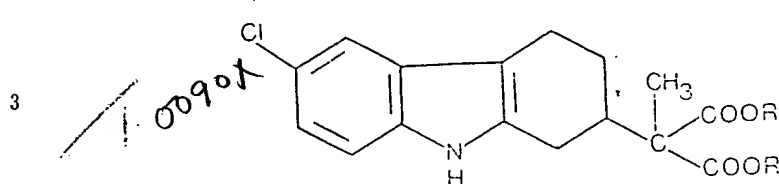
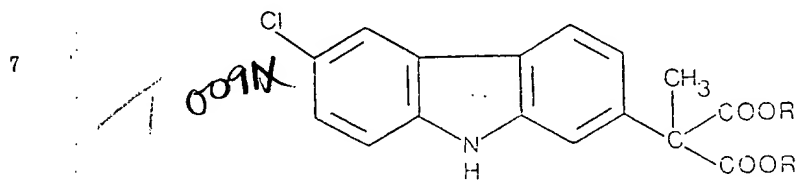


CLAIMS:

1. A process for preparing 6-chloro- $\alpha$ -methyl-carbazole-2-acetic acid, which comprises aromatizing a compound of the formula



- 4 wherein R is lower alkyl,  
5 by treatment with chlorine, and thereafter hydrolyzing and decarboxylating the result-  
6 ing compound of the formula



- 8 wherein R is as previously described.

1           2. A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein a compound of formula I  
2           wherein R is ethyl is utilized.

1           3. A process in accordance with claim 1, wherein a compound of formula I  
2           wherein R is methyl is utilized.

1           4. A process in accordance with claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the aromatization is  
2           carried out in an aprotic solvent.

1           5. A process in accordance with claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the aprotic solvent is  
2           toluene.